

MORE ABOUT VICTOR HUGO.

Victor Hugo was born at Besancon, on Sept. 26 (the seventh day of the decade), the 7th Ventose, year 10 of the French Republic (consulate), that is to say, on the 26th day of February, 1802. This enfant sublime, as he lived to be named by Chateaubriand, came into the world a puny, feeble infant, "not longer than a knife," as his mother said, and the doctor in attendance declared that he could not live. Thanks, however, to the care that was bestowed upon him, the loving care of that "stubborn mother," to use his own words, which made him "twice her child," he did not die.

When quite a child he accompanied his parents to Italy and Spain, and returned with his mother and youngest brother to France at the commencement of the year 1812, when his father (General Hugo, one of Joseph Bonaparte's generals, and who before had served under the Republic), judged it prudent to send them out of Spain. Victor Hugo's first verses, naturally enough, gave utterance to the opinions he had imbibed from his mother, an ardent royalist, who died whilst he was still quite a youth, in the year 1821. In the following year his marriage took place with Mademoiselle Adolphe Foucher. Some little time after his marriage, circumstances drew Victor Hugo nearer to his father. He saw him more and knew him better. Under his influence he began to admire Charles X less, and Napoleon more. Age and reflection, however, taught him that liberty was preferable to either. A few years later he created himself an admirer of liberty in that as well as in other things, and his preface to "Cromwell," which appeared in 1827, was the first shot fired against the arbitrary system of laws which at that time prevailed, not only in the drama, but throughout French literature.

One of the characteristics of Victor Hugo's genius is its wonderful fertility. Poetry, epic and lyric, legend, romance, drama—in every department of literature—has he written, and with the hand of a master. In "Les Orientales" and in "Les Feuilles d'Automne" he resuscitated lyrical in the "Légende des Siècles," he created a style of epic poetry. In "Hernani," he revolutionized the drama as understood in France up to 1830. In "Le Dernier Jour d'un Condamné" he was a Socialist before ever the name was invented. In "Notre Dame de Paris," he recalled the Middle Ages to life again. In "Les Misérables," the nineteenth century lives and speaks for itself.

"There is not a poet who has ever lived!" (as M. Vacquerie has well said) "a more militant, or a more heroic existence. The government of Charles X prohibited the production of one of his dramas, "Marion de Lorme." Charles X offered him as compensation a pension of 4000 francs which he refused. The official censorship of Louis Philippe prohibited another drama of his, "Le Roi s'Amuse"; that of the empire has prohibited all his dramas. Thus, in common with all innovators, he has met with blind or systematic opposition; he has been fought, mocked, insulted, calumniated. "Hernani" and "Le Roi s'Amuse" were the subjects of violence. Troubling himself not at all about this ephemeral excitement, he continued on his way, producing those brilliant works which will outlive the French language."

In 1841 he was, after having been rejected three times, elected a member of the Academy. On the 4th of December, 1843, he had the misfortune to lose his eldest daughter, who was married to Charles Vacquerie, brother of the admirable writer and intimate friend of Victor Hugo, Auguste Vacquerie. Drowned together by the explosion of a boat in the Seine, the death of Charles Vacquerie and his wife was one of those thrilling events of real life which surpass those of fiction in pathos and in the emotion their mere narration excites. A powerful swimmer, and able to save his own life, when he saw that he could not save that of his wife, that devoted husband folded his arms around her and died with her.

Two years afterwards Victor Hugo was made peer of France. In the chamber of Peers he pleaded the popular and liberal cause. One of his most remarkable speeches was one against proscription, especially directed against the exile of the Bonaparte family. With regard to his elevation to the peerage, I may relate an amusing anecdote, which is historically true, and which has never been published before. It will serve, perhaps, to point a moral to a certain school of critics—a rather superficial school—which, at hazard, will pounce upon any little incident having reference to a public character, and thereupon construct a theory more or less, perhaps, of a variety of kind, and of every real nature and disposition. Thus, everything that is possible to be said has been said of M. Victor Hugo. In a distich improvised one day, in a sportive mood, on himself, he has happily summed up the principal elements of the hour of which he was the object:

"Voici les quatre aspects de cet homme feroce, Féroce, assassin, ironique et bossu."

Friends and enemies have lived with each other—the one, who were formerly (perhaps still are) called "Hugobites," in vehement admiration of the other, as he is to be every where found, who delight in flinging stones at every great reputation, not to speak of political enemies), in as vehement detraction.

If chance had not brought to a natural conclusion an interesting conversation between King Louis Philippe and the poet, which took place the evening before the nomination of Victor Hugo to the peerage, it might have been said and believed that the peerage in question had been ardently solicited, and that the king had hardly refused it. Victor Hugo had gone to pay an evening visit at the Tuileries. The queen, the princesses, the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, and some intimate friends, were in a large drawing-room which communicated by folding doors with a long gallery, where the king was in the habit of walking up and down after dinner, generally with some friend, with whom he conversed the while.

On the evening in question the king and Victor Hugo were in the gallery, walking to and fro together, conversing, stopping every now and then, as it generally happens with people who talk and converse at the same time. The doors of the large drawing-room were open, and those who were sitting there could see the king and the poet expostiate pass and repass, and from time to time stand still for awhile. The king was relating to Victor Hugo an episode of his youth. How, when a youthful general, he had served the republic, as his father Philippe Egalité, Duke of Orleans, had done before him. Wishing to obtain a command in the republican army, he had gone to see Danton, who was at the time Minister of War. Now, the celebrated revolutionist was well known, exceedingly brusque in his manners and conversation. The king, stopping, without thinking, almost opposite the open doors, had just arrived at the point of his anecdote, when he spoke in the words of Danton himself, and imitating the manner and tone of Danton, raised his voice, saying, "Young man! you ask me a favor which I do not grant to every body; I do not know you, or

FIRE-PROOF SAFES
FROM THE GREAT FIRE
IN MARKET STREET.
HERRING'S PATENT SAFES
Again the Champion!
THE ONLY SAFE THAT PRESERVES ITS CONTENTS UNCHANGED.

FARREL, HERRING & CO.,
No. 629 CHESTNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.

GOVERNMENT SALES.
SALE OF GOVERNMENT VESSEL.
DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 26, 1869.

PUBLIC SALE OF CONDEMNED ORD.
A large quantity of Condemned Ordnance and Ordnance Stores will be offered for sale as Public Auctioneers by the undersigned on the premises on

ENGINES, MACHINERY, ETC.
PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.
PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS,
MACHINE BUILDERS, BOILER MAKERS, & C.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
TIME TABLE.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD.
WATER TIME TABLE—THROUGH AND DIRECT ROUTE BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, PITTSBURGH, WILMINGTON, AND THE GREAT OIL REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

CORN EXCHANGE
MANUFACTORY,
No. 100 N. 2d Street, Philadelphia.

RAILROAD LINES.
1868—FOR NEW YORK—THE CAMDEN AND PHILADELPHIA RAILROAD.
MORNING ACCOMMODATION.

RAILROAD LINES.
READING RAILROAD—GREAT TRUNK LINE FROM PHILADELPHIA TO THE INTERIOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.
MORNING ACCOMMODATION.

RAILROAD LINES.
NEW YORK EXPRESS FOR PITTSBURGH AND THE WEST.
Leaves New York at 9 A. M. and 5 P. M.

RAILROAD LINES.
SCHUYLKILL VALLEY RAILROAD.
Leaves Philadelphia at 8:30 A. M. and 4:30 P. M.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
READING RAILROAD—GREAT TRUNK LINE FROM PHILADELPHIA TO THE INTERIOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.
MORNING ACCOMMODATION.

RAILROAD LINES.
NEW YORK EXPRESS FOR PITTSBURGH AND THE WEST.
Leaves New York at 9 A. M. and 5 P. M.

RAILROAD LINES.
SCHUYLKILL VALLEY RAILROAD.
Leaves Philadelphia at 8:30 A. M. and 4:30 P. M.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
COMMUNICATING TICKETS.

AUCTION SALES.
M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 N. 4th STREET.
SALE OF REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS, February 12, 12 o'clock, noon, at the Exchange, will include:

AUCTION SALES.
IMPORTANT SALE OF 2000 CASES BOOTS, SHOES, & CLOTHING, & C.
February 9, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit.

AUCTION SALES.
MARTIN BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS.
VALUABLE PRIVATE LIBRARY.
8th instant, at 7 o'clock, at the Auction Rooms.

AUCTION SALES.
CLARK & EVANS, AUCTIONEERS, NO. 630 CHESTNUT STREET.
Will sell THIS DAY, Morning and Evening.

AUCTION SALES.
C. D. McCLESSEY & CO., AUCTIONEERS, NO. 46 MARKET STREET.
SALE OF 1000 CASES BOOTS AND SHOES.

AUCTION SALES.
KEENAN, SON & CO., AUCTIONEERS, NO. 111 BROADWAY.
SALE OF THE UNDERGROUND.

AUCTION SALES.
MERRICK & SONS
SOUTH WARK FOUNDRY.

AUCTION SALES.
MERRICK'S SAFETY HOISTING MACHINE.
Patented June, 1858.